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THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014

FlyBoard Niagara Newwater sport extreme fun Page 3

Recreation Merritt Island trail reopens Page 5

Tourist attraction



INPORTANEWS

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Fun time at the carnival







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UPFRONT

Lions Club serves up a good time





Tyrin Avis, right, and his younger brother Cyrus ride the Groovy Bus ride at the Port Lions Carnival held this weekend at Lions Field.

PHOTOS BY DNA MACHINGARY.

Reeve Houser, left, his brother Cohen, centre, sister Lyla and mother Dana all take a ride on the magic slide at the Port Colborne Lions Carnival held this weekend at Lions Field.





Kaittyn Hall, Payton Dickie and Peyton Moroziuk ride the Hanglider at the Port Colborne Lions Carnival held this weekend at Lions Field.

Mark Pollard and his son Joshua ride the Port Colborne Lions Carnival held this weekend at Lions Field.



EXTREME SPORTS: FlyBoard Niagara launches on Welland River

New water sport extreme fun

OMI Agency Niagara

For about 10 seconds, I was Ironman. Floating 15 feet above the Welland River I gracefully hovered on a high-tech flying machine as people in hoats and on shore

looked on snapping photos and cheering.

And then, like that time in Ironman where Tony Stark came crashing back to earth in his malfunctioning suit, I fell hackward like I'd been knocked off a pedestal and slammed into the water on my side.

Ever been punched in the kidney? Neither have I, but I'm pretty sure that's what it feels like It was my first time trying flyhoarding,

a new extreme sport now being offered in Niagara Falls.

Over and over I launched out of the water riding a waterjet-powered hoard. Over and over 1 hovered high above the water and then came splashing hack down. Sometimes with a somewhat graceful dive, most times with a kidney-smashing thud.

But in 15 minutes of flyhoarding, I was

At first glance, the gravity-defying sport looks like the end result of a three-way

hrainstorming session between Stark. Marty McFly and George Jetson. In reality though, flyhoarding was invented by a French personal watercraft rider named Franky Zapata three years

ago. He now sells the equipment and flyhoarding husiness franchises around the As crazy as it appears to onlookers, the idea is fairly simple: Water is shot out of

the hack of a personal watercraft - most commonly known as a Jet Ski - through a large hose and into two jets mounted to something that looks like a wakehoard. As the engine on the PWC is revved up, the flyboard rider, who is strapped in with

special hoots, flies into the air and is able to move around hy leaning and hending. If you're good and practise enough,

you can launch 10 metres in the air, move around freely and even perform tricks such If you're a complete rookie like me, you

can launch six metres in the air, feel like a superhero and then come crashing back to the water

Either way, it's a hlast,

"I originally saw it on the Discovery Channel a couple of years ago and thought it looked pretty cool. I went on YouTube and saw more videos and hecame ohsessed with it," said Craig Bagshaw, who launched FlyBoard Niagara in early June along with husiness partner Rodney

Bagshaw was hoping to start the flyhoarding husiness last year, hut it took until this spring to get everything lined up. It's hased out of the Greater Niagara Boat-

ing Cluh on Lyons Creek Rd. in Chippawa. When things are slow, Bagshaw's 17-year-old son Tyler will head down the river closer to the Weightman Bridge to attract attention by performing those tricks mentioned earlier.

"People have to get to know it," Moore said. "You say 'flyhoarding' and right now most people don't know what it is."

"It's already starting to come around," said Bagshaw. "We would ohviously love to get the tourist market. That's why we picked this location." It was Tyler Bagshaw who was manning

the PWC Sunday while I added flyboarding to the list of stupid human tricks I've attempted. I'd rank it less frightening than skydiving, more fun than hungee jumping and significantly easier than downhill skating Crashed Ice style - something I never should have attempted.

"It was more difficult than I expected, hut so was water skiing and wakehoarding when I first tried them," said Marcin Migdal, who was also a flyboarding rookie when he came to Niagara Sunday from Oakville to try out the extreme sport. "The first 15 or 20 minutes I was just trying to

figure it all out." The 50-year-old Bagshaw left his fulltime joh as a heavy equipment operator to launch the husiness while Moore, 45, is doing double duty by maintaining his fulltime joh in Niagara Falls.

"We'll see how it goes, hut we've got some high hopes for it," said Bagshaw. who spent four years helping to huild the new Niagara Falls hydro tunnel. "If everyone who says they'll try it actually tries it, we'll be good."

With parents' permission teenagers can try flyhoarding, as long as their feet are hig enough for the hoard's huilt-in hoots. As for the upper age hracket, there's no limit.

"We had a lady who was 70 watch it and say she was going to come hack to try it," Bagshaw said.

So far, though, a 57-year-old man is the oldest to flyboard in Niagara

At \$149 for 30 minutes, it's not cheap, hut the prices are set for franchisees by Zapata's company. There is, however, a 20% discount for locals and cheaper rates if two people want to share an hour on the

Compared to other extreme activities, which are often over in a few minutes or even seconds (like hungee jumping), it's reasonable. With helmets and lifeiackets mandatory, as well as a hoard that floats, flyhoarding seems like a fairly risk-free

Although my kidneys and ego might dis-



DAN DAKIN / OME ACENCY MIACADA Tyler Bagshaw, 17, performs a trick while riding a flyboard on the Welland River.



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welland.tribune@sunmedia.ca John Tobon, Publisher, Print & Digital Peter Conradi, Managing Editor



Your legacy is in your hands

nless you keep close track of obscure holidays and observances, you probably didn't know that August is "What Will Be Your Legacy?" month.

Still, you might want to use this particular month as a useful reminder to take action on what could be one of your most important financial goals: leaving a meaningful legacy.

A legacy isn't simply a document or a bunch of numbers - it's what you will be remembered for, and what you have left behind that will be remembered. It's essentially your chance to contribute positively to the future, whether that means providing financial resources for the next generation, helping those charitable organizations whose work you support, or a combination of both

To create your legacy, you'll need to do some planning. And you can start by asking

vourself a couple of key questions: What are your goals?

what comes to mind? First and foremost, you may want to leave enough money to help your own grown children meet their financial goals. After that, you probably have other things you'd like to accomplish. Perhaps you want to provide resources for your grandchildren to attend college? Or set up a scholarship at your own alma mater? Give financial support to a cultural, social, religious or scientific group? By thinking about your goals and putting them on paper, even in an informal sense, you'll be taking the important first step in leaving the legacy you desire.

When you think about leaving a legacy,

How can you turn your goals into reality? If you don't take some concrete steps, your legacy just won't materialize. And the most important step you need to take is to create a comprehensive estate plan. Your estate plan can be quite involved, because it may involve several legal documents, such as a will, living trust, health care power of attorney, and so on. In creating these materials, you will need to work with your legal and tax advisers because estate planning is definitely not a "do-it-yourself" endeavour. You probably shouldn't wait until you are deep into retirement to take action on your estate plan because developing the necessary documents and arrangements can take a fair amount of time - and you'll want to make these preparations when you're in good mental and physical health. Also, the longer you wait to set up your estate plan, the less likely it will be that you've commu-

nicated your wishes clearly to your family

members, who may end up unsure about

what you want and what their roles are in

carrying out your plans - and that's an out-

come you certainly don't want to see. In fact, clear communication is essential to developing a successful estate plan. You should not only tell your family members - and anyone else affected by your estate plans — what you are thinking of doing. but also inform them about the professionals with whom you are working and the locations in which you are storing any vital documents, such as your will.

By identifying your goals, working with the appropriate professionals to create an effective estate plan, and communicating regularly with your family members and other "key players" in your life, you can go a long way toward leaving the legacy you desire Don't wait, do what it takes to launch

that legacy. John Beyer, CFP, is a financial adviser with the Niagara

Falls brokerage firm of Edward Jones.

Shipwrecks — Naumburg

SKIP GILLHAM For PelhamNews

The West German freighter Naumburg had a routine sailing career until the

end of its service. The vessel managed 28 years of trading and then spent five years aground before going for scrap.

The 110.4-metre-long cargo carrier was built at Lubeck, West Germany, in 1953 and began Great Lakes trading in 1959. The ship made a total of 13 trips through the St. Lawrence Seaway to the end of 1962.

It was sold and registered in Chile as Cordillera in 1969 and in Bangladesh as Siuli in 1979. The vessel was seized by the collector of customs at Chittagong, Bangladesh, on May 6, 1981, and placed under arrest. It was aground in the outer harbour there by September and remained stuck until sold to local shipbreakers.

The hull was refloated and gradually dismantled between May 1986 and April 1987.



DHOTO- JOHN LOW COURTESY BENE

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LOCALNEWS

RECREATION

Merritt Island trail reopens

After more than two years, outdoor enthusiasts will once again

be able to walk, jog or roll along the recreational trail on Merritt Island — all the way to Thorold if they wish, and beyond. The north end of the trail.

closed in 2012 to accommodate construction workers building a new bridge as part of the widening of Hwy. 406, was reopened at noon last Friday.

A media release issued by Welland Recreational Canal Corp said the remediated trail, part of the Greater Niagara Circle Route, as well as a reconstructed pathway that leads under the Woodlawn Rd. bridge, is now open for the use of walkers, cyclists, inline



skaters and others who have been using the shortened trail. WRCC executive director Stephen Fischer wasted no time in adding an open sign above the word closed at the entrance to

Fischer said in the media release. struction, was reopened in 2012.

Rankin Construction for working together with the canal corporation to get the trail remediated and open as quickly as possible." Another portion of the trail. closed due to the highway conGet Peace of Mind With Professional Advice at a Great Price PICK your PRIZE!

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LOCALNEWS

■ LOCAL LANDMARK: Optical illusion a tourist attraction

Port Colborne's 'incredible' shrinking mill

OMI Agency Niagara

Moncton, N.B. has its Magnetic Hill, but Niagara has a

Port Colborne is best known for the Welland Canal and sandy beaches, but a little-

been generating more buzz. Port Colborne Mayor Vance

known tourist attraction has "It's something to see," said

Badawey. "We get people coming from all over to check it out Dubbed the Incredible Shrinking

Mill on the city's tourism website, the attraction is an optical illusion involving a massive grain elevator near the Sugarloaf Marina. Turning left onto Lakeshore Rd. W.

from Cement Plant Rd. in Port Colborne and then driving east, the grain elevator fills the horizon at the end of the road, which curves to the left when it hits Gravelly Bay

Drive closer to the bend in the road, though, and the grain elevator appears to get smaller By the time you make the left-hand

bend, the building looks significantly smaller and can now been seen on the opposite side of the bay.

The optical illusion is the result of a changing perspective as you drive by. Large trees and houses on both sides of the road make the mill seem bigger than it is, then once the road opens up

and the bay is visible the perspective

According to Port Colborne's tourism website, the phenomena is also the result of the refraction of light off

the bay's shallow water. The grain elevator is more than 100 years old and the illusion has been visible for years, but has gained more interest lately with the posting of a couple of videos on YouTube and a segment about it on a television

"As much as we take it for granted, when people see it they're just in awe, said Badawey, who lives near Lakeshore Rd. and said tourists checking

out the mill are easy to identify "They turn off of Cement Rd., slow almost to a stop to look at it, and then nine times out of 10 you see them drive by again a few minutes later," he said.

> dan dakin@sunmedia ca Twitter: @dandakinmedia



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Boggio Family of Pharmacies and the Boggio family are long-time supporters of Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara, for which we are very grateful! Their donation of \$3,030, in celebration of Boggio Family of Pharmacies 30th Anniversary, will enable our agency to provide three traditional one to one matches for a year! With currently 75 children wait-listed (over half of which are boys) within the Port Colborne area, we are always looking for volunteers to become Big Brothers and Big Sisters to empower children and youth to achieve their full potential. We wish Boggio Family of Pharmacies a very Happy 30th Anniversary!

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"NIAGARA'S FRIENDLIEST GOLF COURSE"

Niagara Health System has recruited Paulanne Jushkevich as the first CEO of its new OneFoundation. Jushkevich will begin her new role as chief executive officer of the NHS' OneFoundation on Aug. 5, taking

the helm of the newly-amalgamated organization responsible for raising funds to meet the needs of all NHS In a media release. Jushkevich said

she has watched the transformation underway at the NHS and is excited to join the team.

"I've watched the renewal happen-

foundations with great interest, and feel very blessed that I can have a role in the next leap forward," she said. "I really feel deeply that our obligation is to the donors, to respecting their wishes, and to deploying their generosity to build the best possible health system for all in the Niagara region." OneFoundation board chair Mike Watt called Jushkevich "the right per-

son for the job." "As a supporting foundation, our board's role is to ensure that we're set up to fund the necessary equipment to maintain and advance the standard of excellence in health care throughout Niagara," he said. "The first CEO of our new foundation will not only lead development opera-

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tions, she will set the trajectory for the new fundraising body to ensure its ongoing success into the future.'

Jushkevich, who previously worked in leadership positions

for several Montreal area hospitals including most recently Royal Victoria Hospital Foundation, was selected after a nationwide search for candi-

(West of Prince Charles)





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Honouring her friends

OMI Agency Niagara

As each kilometre on the rippling water passed, the memories of two friends grew stronger and stronger for

Maddi Leblanc.

She never really had a chance to say goodbye to Julia Turner or Lynn Lambert, Cancer took both of them far too early. Lambert, a neighbour, died in March 2011 at 37. Nine months later the wretched disease took her close friend

Turner at 15. As the 17-year-old Leblanc paddled her way five kilometres up the Welland recreational canal and then five kilometres back down aboard a standup paddlehoard last Thursday. there may have been a support boat nearby and family and friends on the shore, but she was alone with her thoughts.

Her memories. Her emotions. "There wasn't a second I wasn't thinking about them," she said. "This was something I just needed to do for myself. It was my way of saying good-

The 10-km fundraising paddleboard event was all Leblanc's idea. It garnered attention from sponsors like Ausmosis, a SUP company out of St. Catharines that donated a board for her to use and put on a free demo day at Welland International Flatwater Cen-

By Thursday night she had raised \$1.500 for cancer research, but that didn't include cash donations made

at the event For Leblanc's parents Dan and Jackie, it was a proud, and emotional, day.

"It's an initiative she took on herself," said Dan. "It was something she wanted to do to give back and contribute."

It's just really important to her to do something good because they were two really good people," said Jackie. "She wants people to remember them."

Leblanc said the 10-km SUP workout wasn't overly difficult, except for the final few hundred metres, when she could see the 100 or so supporters waiting at the end of the recreational canal for her.

"I could see everybody and I just wanted to get there," she said, "I can't believe this many people were here to support what I've been working hard for. It's amazing."

In the crowd were Paul and Tina Turner, Julia's parents, who said their daughter was likely smiling down on her friend Thursday.

"It's beyond words. She's a fantastic girl," said Tina. It warms our hearts she would keep Julia's memories alive, but we're not surprised because that's the way she is." This won't be the last fun-



Maddi Leblanc embraces her mother Jackie Leblanc after her 10km stand up paddleboard for charity.

draising SUP event Leblanc can do it. I definitely want to does. She plans to do it again next year, but will invite other paddlers to join her. "Whoever wants to come

do it again," she said. dan.dakin@sunmedia.ca

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ACCIDENT

Trust fund for injured OPP officer

The Ontario Provincial Police Association has launched a trust fund in support of a Niagara police officer who sustained

"life- altering injuries" in a freak training accident OPP Const. Peter Tucker, a St. Catharines resident who works out of the Niagara detachment, was escorting a motorcade in Barrie on June 26 as part of a training exercise. Tucker was struck by

a goose in flight that caused his motorcycle to crash. The OPPA said Tucker sustained "life-

altering injuries" and remains in critical condition at a Toronto hospital. The police association this week established a trust fund to assist the Tucker family "through this difficult time." Donations can be made using the fol-

INPORT NEWS THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014

lowing methods: ■ Via cheque sent to the OPPA Credit Union, 123 Ferris Ln., Barrie, Ont., L4M 2Y1. Cheques should be made payable to

Pete Tucker Trust Account #180620. ■ Cash donations are also being accepted at the OPPA Credit Union. Tucker is a 20-year OPP veteran and

member of elite OPP Golden Helmets motorcycle precision team. The OPPA represents more than 6,000

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ODDITY

'Intoxicated' woman pulled from canal

OMI Agency Niagara Niagara Regional Police are reminding people alcohol and

water don't mix after a woman had to be rescued from the Welland Canal last Friday.

The woman, who isn't being identified by police, was taken into custody "for her safety" Fri-

day afternoon after falling into the canal twice in less than two hours. The first call came in at 1:14 p.m. for a possible water rescue near the old train bridge at West St. and Clarence St. in Port Colborne. Three fire trucks, paramedics and the NRP were called to the scene for what, at first, sounded like a swimmer who was stuck in the

water and couldn't get out.

water so the fire department was called off, NRP Const. Rich Gadreau said at that point, officers realized it was an intoxicated person who had fallen in, but managed to get out on her own.

However, at 2:40 p.m., the same three fire trucks were again called out to the same site. Gadreau said

Police arrived first and the it was the same woman who had fallen into woman was already out of the

the water, but this time she needed to be rescued by the Port Colborne fire department. When police arrived, the woman was taken into custody for her own protection.

he said. "After jumping into the water the second time, the intoxicated female was apprehended for her safety.

He said the NRP wanted to take the opportunity to remind people of the danger of drinking near water. "Mixing alcohol or drug consumption with water activities can be a fatal mistake," said Gadreau.

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Fake handgun pointed

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A Welland man is facing numerous weapons-related charges after allegedly pulling what turned out to be a fake handsun last Thursday,

Niagara Regional Police were called to an Ontario Rd. address at about 5 p.m. after someone complained a man had pulled out a handgun and threatened him with it. NRP Const. Rich Gadreau said the emergency task unit was in the area searching for a missing woman so

it responded to the call and arrested a 28-year-old Welland man just before 6 p.m. A pellet gun that looked like a

handgun was recovered.
Charged with assault with a weapon, use of imitation firearm in commission of offence, possession of weapon contrary to order and three counts of breach of probation was Corey St. Cyr.



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INPORT NEWS DATEBOOK

JULY 21

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at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Bring your loom and hook and we'll provide the bands. Call 905-899-1277 to pre-register your attendance by the Friday prior to each session as space is limited.

JULY 23

OSFR

information sessions at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Call 905-788-3751 or e-mail reception@employment-solutions. org to reserve a spot.

BOAT RACING, CAR SHOW

Thunder on the Grand boat races are at Wingfield Park and Main St. in Dunnville, Aug. 16 and 17. The Mickey Wolf Car Show is Aug. 17.

AUGUST 24 MS BIKE TOUR Port Colborne's Larry Peyton is in his both year to rise funds to help his son who has multiple sclerosis. He has registered for the MS Bike Tour to fuffi a personal challenge, and to help the MS Society fund research, advocate for change, and help people with MS and their familles. If sestimated 55,000 to 75,000 Canadians have the disease, and every day about three more people are diagnosed. To donate go to msblike.ca or call Psyton at 950 S34-6205.

ONGOING

ROSE CITY TOASTMASTERS

Have fun and improve your communication skills, for free at any or all of the Rose City Toastmasters summer meetings: July 10 23 and Aug. 7 and 20, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Lower Community Room of Welland Arena, 501 King St., Welland. Visit welland.toastmastersclubs.

SPAN

(Single Person Association of Niagara) is a social club since 1982 for mature singles who meet and mingle at leggy S-ub, 115 Hwy, 20, Fonthill, every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Offers members a monthly calendar of social activities. Further information, call Lynie at 905-788-0359.



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16 ■ INPORT NEWS ■ THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014



NOTICE OF STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT 1

PORT COLBORNE

DUDDOCE

The purpose of this meeting is to present Official Plan Amendment 1 (OPA 1) to Council and to hear any comments from the public. The City of Port Colborne has initiated an Official Plan Amendment to modify and update existing regulations including:

- Text and mapping changes to the Westwood Park Secondary Plan (Section 5.3 and Schedule G) to correct minor clerical errors;
- The addition of "Medical Marihuana Production Facility" as a permitted use under the Industrial/Employment Area Designation:
- The re-designation of the properties from 76 to 104 Fraser Street from "Urban Residential" to "Downtown Commercial" on Schedule A:
- Updated policies relating to Garden Suites:
- Minor change to Schedule A regarding the delineation of the Mineral Aggregate Operations; and
- The inclusion of a policy to allow for the correction of minor clerical, grammatical, spelling and technical
 mapping errors (including colour adjustments on Schedulee), updates to the beam papping to show existing
 and approved infrastructure, changes to the format or presentation of the plan and altering punctuation to
 obtain a uniform mode of expression.

OPA 1 will not be adopted by Council at this Statutory Public Meeting. Comments provided at this meeting will be considered prior to the amendment being finalized and adopted. As the Regional Municipality of Niagara is the approval authority, once adopted by City Council, the Official Plan will be forwarded to the Region for its approval.

STAUTORY PUBLIC MEETING

Date: August 11, 2014

Time: 6:30 PM
Location: City Hall Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

66 Charlotte Street. Port Colborne

HAVE YOUR SAY

Input on the proposed Official Plan Amendment 1 is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by providing written comments to the City. Please note that unless you provide input via one of these means, you may not be able to appeal the decision of Council at a later date.

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

To provide input in writing or to request personal notification of a decision of Council, please send correspondence c/o City Clerk, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne Ontario, L3K 3C8.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact Lindsay Richardson, Community/Policy Planner at 905-835-2901 ext 129 or via email at lindsaytichardson@portoolbome.ca. A copy of the amendment will be available in the Planning and Development Department, 2nd floor, City Hall for review or it can be found on the City's website at www.portoolbome.ca.

LEGAL NOTICE

Sections 17 and 26 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, C.P. 13 as amended

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the City of Port Colborne before a decision on the proposed Official Plan Amendment, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of Council of the City of Port Colborne to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions that the City of Port Cobhome before a decision on the proposed Official Plan Amendment is made by Council, the het person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the coinion of the Board, there is reasonable grounds to do so.

Dated at the City of Port Colborne this 17th day of July, 2014

AGRICULTURE

Government pledges to reduce use of controversial pesticide

ROB HOULE OMI Agency Niagara

You might have expected beekeeper George Scott to be jumping for joy at the news the provincial government is aiming to cut farm use of a controversial pesticide he has railed against, but you would be wrong.

"In this past legislation, provincially, they used an atomic bomb to kill a mouse and they missed the elephant," the Wainfleet resident and managing director of Niagara Beeway said.

The mouse in Scott's metaphor are farmers. The elephant are all the retail products containing neonicotinoids available to con-

Scott has lobbied, without success, Niagara Region over the last year asking councillors to support a ban on the non-farm use of neonicotinoids. The pesticide, he told councillors in late March, is found in 560 products, including aerosol insecticides and pet flea-control products.

Newly-minted provincial minister of agriculture, food and rural affairs Jeff Leal, announced Monday he is moving to limit the amount of neonicotinoids applied to Ontario's farm fields.

Almost all corn seed and about 50% of soybean seeds planted in Ontario are coated with neonicotinoids, which protect the crops from pests throughout plant growth.

Neonicotinoids have been cited as a leading cause of death to pollinators; specifically, honey bees. Three types of the class of neonics have been banned from use in Europe.

"Our intention is to move away from the widespread, indiscriminate use of neonicotinoid-based pesticides," Leal said Monday in a statement.

Leal said the ministry will begin consulting with farmers to limit the use of neonicotinoids, which may include licensing. While he would like to see a total ban

on the use of neonicotinoids, Scott said targeting Ontarlo farmers is not a good approach because it will put them at a competitive disadvantage with farmers in other jurisdictions where there are no bans or limitations. He said mandatory labelling on products noting they may contain neonicotinoids, such as items made with corn starch, will force companies to make neonicotinoid free products, as consumers will opt for those items.

Watford-area beekeeper Dan Davidson told QMI Agency he welcomes Ontario's decision.

decision.
"I think their head's in the right place on this one," said Davidson, president of the

Ontario Beekeepers Association.
"They understand it's just getting used
whether it's needed or not, and that's not
good for any pesticide, especially one that's

very deadly to bees and other pollinators."
Ontario's hone; industry has been struggling with what Davidson has called an unsustainable 35% average annual death rate among honeybees. He has pointed to the fact that 30% of the food humans eat requires pollination, and honeybees do 80%

- with files from Paul Morden, QMI Agency

of the pollinating.

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Tiger or Black Swallowtail butterflies. Last summer, I counted a mere handful of monarchs as I photographed gardens in Niagara and up into the Bruce peninsula. I've received letters from readers who are concerned about not seeing as many bees in their gardens this year. There are many theories about what has happened to the butterflies and bees, but the answers are beyond my scope. One thing is certain, native habitats are shrinking as meadows and orchards are replaced with subdivisions and shopping centres. What's the

Sometimes hope comes in a simple package.

home gardener to do?

Let's step back for a moment, to a conference in Tucson, Ariz., when I met a lively wildflower grower. Miriam Goldberger, from Coldwater, Ont, With a charismatic personality and an infectious smile, Goldberger was passionate about wildflowers - from starting seed under glass, to the first Pasque flower to bloom in her northern meadow, through glorious false indigo and wild sunflowers and finally helping bridal parties harvest and design charming home-grown bouquets for their weddings. Goldberger was ecstatic, her first book would be published the follow-

Fast forward to March 2014 at Canada Blooms in Toronto. Goldberger is addressing a crowd of garden enthusiasts about the merits of introducing native wildflowers to their home gardens: "Once established, native plants don't need fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides or watering, Many are perennials - year after year they just keep on blooming," she said. Her talk stressed the importance of native wildflowers in habitat gardens for pollinators. "Native plants naturally attract diverse varieties of birds, butterflies and good bugs to your property. Not only is wildflower gardening good for the environment, it saves time and money." Reader friendly, colourful and inspir-

ing, Taming Wildflowers published by St. Lynn's Press is more like spending an afternoon chatting with Goldberger on her beloved 40-hectare wildflower farm, than reading a manual on native wildflower gardening, All of the facts and figures have been thoroughly researched and beautifully presented, but they are offered in such a readable fashion, that I finished the book

cover to cover in one delicious sitting. A former dancer and founder of a prenatal and postpartum fitness program in Toronto, Goldberger's love of flowers was born in 1982 when she purchased a packet of zinnia seeds and was mesmerized by the growth process. Within a few short years, she and husband, Paul, started Canada's first pick-your-own flower farm. Acres of "every kind of flower available in the seed catalogues," followed.

Goldberger fell in love with native plants after planting a small patch of wildflowers near her flower shop (a former barn) in an effort to save work. She was smitten with the colours and textures of the flowers along with the butterflies and songbirds that visited the patch, "I couldn't get over how easy native plants were to grow and maintain, how long-lived they were and, most of all, how utterly beautiful they were Plus they made stunning bouquets

For novice gardeners, or more experienced gardeners who are ready to introduce more native wildflowers in their gardens, Taming Wildflowers catalogues 60 of Miriam's favourite native plants and grasses. Folksy background, growing details and pollination partners are included on each illustrated page. This is not an exotic list of unknown plants, seasoned gardeners will recognize gardenfriendly smooth Solomon's seal, spiderwort, blue false indigo, rudbeckia hirta, purple coneflower, lavender hyssop and blue aster as flowers they might already be growing at home. For novice gardeners, the list is divided into blooming season. and plant family, with a little planning you can have blooms throughout the growing

Another handy list sorts the plants according to soil preferences: clay, sandy and dry soil and loam. If you garden on clay soil, bee balm, coreopsis, Culver's root, New England Aster and little bluestern grass are among the selections for your soil. Sandy, dry soils are suited to lavender hyssop, native lupine, blanketflower and downy sunflower. Loam soil has many options, including sweet Joe-Pye weed, compass plant, foam flower, native columbine, spiderwort, wild quinine and Indian grass.

Theresa Forte is a local garden writer, photographer and speaker. You can reach her by calling 905-351-7540 or by e-mail theresa_forte@sympatico.ca,

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